

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3130

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10457

DEPT PASS TO NASA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, IN

SUBJ: RANGNEKAR VISIT GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI FROM BOMBAY DTD 05 AUG.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 1811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: RANGNEKEJ VISIT GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

REF NEW DELHI 10287; AND STATE 167342

1. I HAD LUNCH TODAY 5TH WITH EDITOR ECONOMIC TIMES WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM IV GRANT VISIT US. HE DELIGHTED AND ENTHUSIASTIC OVER HIS VISIT US AND FRANK TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE RETURNED BOMBAY WITH DIFFERENT IMPRESSION OF US THAN HE HAD LEFT WITH, WHICH HAD BEEN BASED HE SAID, LARGELY ON PUBLISHED MATERIALS SUCH AS BURTON'S BOOK THE "RICH AND SUPER RICH", GALBRAITH'S BOOKS, ETC.

2. IN COURSE REVIEW HIS US PROGRAM, HE REFERRED HIS VISIT TO GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER. I DIDN'T REFER TO STATE REFTEL, BUT SAID HOW PLEASED I WAS HE HAD GONE, RECALLING EARLY JUNE ITEM IN SAKAL (BOMBAY 1247) ALLEGING EDUCATIONAL SATELLITE
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WOULD BE USED BY US TO SPY ON INDIA AND PIECE THEREAFTER IN BLITZ

DENIGRATING SATELLITE (BOMBAY 1250). I EXPRESSED HOPE HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO REVIEW ENTIRE PROJECT AND COULD APPRECIATE BASELESS NATURE SPY SATELLITE CHARGE. HE STRESSED HE FULLY SATISFIED ON SCORE. SAID HE HAD ASKED PARTICULARLY TO HAVE GODDARD INCLUDED IN HIS ITINERARY IN ORDER TO LOOK INTO MATTER HIMSELF. HE HAD GONE OVER WITH SCIENTIST IN CHARGE AS WELL AS INDIAN SCIENTISTS WORKING ON PROJECT. FORMER HAD PRAISE FOR LATTER. INDIAN SCIENTISTS,

HE SAID, HAD BEEN VOCIFEROUS IN REFUTING ALLEGATION. IN SUM, HE FULLY SATISFIED.

3. I EXPRESSED HOPE HE WOULD FIND OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE ABOUT THIS AS WELL OTHER ASPECTS OF HIS TRIP. RANGNEKAR SAID HE HAD INTENDED TO DO SEVERAL ARTICLES, BUT HAS BEEN ADVISED AGAINST DOING SO ON GROUND HE WILL BE ACCUSED OF HAVING BEEN "BRAINWASHED" WHILE IN US WITH NET RESULT THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED. HE WENT ON HOWEVER TO ASSURE ME THAT IN WRITING ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS RELATED US, HE INTENDED DO SO IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LEAVE NO DOUBT AS TO CORRECT NATURE OF SITUATION. I TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAY I HAD BEEN PLEASED SEE HIS PUBLICATION OF DR SALIM ALI'S LETTER ON BASELESS ALLEGATIONS LEVELLED AGAINST BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY. BANE UNQUOTE. MOYNIHAN

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